

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A stent-catheter arrangement for placing a stent into a vessel, the stent-catheter arrangement comprising:

a catheter including an expandable balloon having a first essentially tubular section expandable to engage an interior vessel wall, a second essentially tubular section expandable to engage the interior vessel wall, and an essentially tubular segment of reduced expandability in comparison with said first and second essentially tubular sections, said essentially tubular segment of reduced expandability being provided between said first and second essentially tubular sections, each of said first and the second essentially tubular sections being connected to said segment of reduced expandability by a tapered section; and

an essentially tubular stent disposed on said expandable balloon, said stent including a liquid impermeable cover,

said stent being dimensioned and configured to extend over said essentially tubular segment of reduced expandability and portions of said first and second essentially tubular sections,

said balloon and said stent being configured and arranged to expand said stent to form first and second essentially tubular fixing portions and an essentially tubular portion coupled to said first and second expanded fixing portions by first and second tapering portions of predetermined lengths and angles,

said essentially tubular portion having a smaller outer radial width than said first and second expanded fixing portions when said balloon is fully expanded so that said essentially tubular portion is radially spaced from the interior wall of the vessel,

said essentially tubular segment of said balloon of said reduced expandability being formed by a stiffening element independent of the spent and applied to expandable material of said balloon.

2. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said cover is a foil or a coating.

3. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter arrangement according to claim 2, wherein said foil or said coating is made from body-tolerated material.

4-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter arrangement according to claim 2, wherein said foil or said coating consists of biological material, of polymer material, of metallic material, ceramic material or elastomer material.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said segment of reduced expandability is formed of stiffened balloon material.

11.-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said essentially tubular section of said balloon of said reduced expandability is produced by reducing the expandability of balloon material from said essentially tubular section during balloon production.

17.-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter arrangement according to claim 2, wherein the foil or the coating comprises poly-tetra-fluoro-ethylene.

22. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter arrangement according to Claim 13, wherein the stiffening element is integrated into the balloon material.

23. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter arrangement according to Claim 13, wherein the stiffening element is applied to the balloon material by a secondary process.

24. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter arrangement according to Claim 13, wherein the secondary process is an adhesive bonding process.